

C. Remarks

The last Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and the above amendment is presented to clarify the claims and place this case in condition for allowance.

All of the originally presented claims were rejected by the Examiner as being unpatentable under either 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 in view of Korean Patent Publication No. 2003-060759A. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described in this application as originally filed, a key feature of Applicant's invention, which is not disclosed in the Korean reference, is the inner sloped relationship of the spiral surface portions 67, 68 on the cam surfaces of the rotating cam members and the "fixing member". This arrangement allows the spring structure to be loaded as the door is closed, but before it is in its fully closed position, some of the pressure is released so that the door can move to the closed position under the effects of gravity. This closed slope relationship between these two surfaces is not taught or suggested in the Korean reference.

The Korean reference, as shown in the single drawing accompanying the Abstract provided by the Examiner, appears to contain a central element 220 which has a single spiral surface 222 mating with a corresponding surface on the element 120. In addition, the member 220 has a flat surface 224. Nothing in the reference suggests that the surface 224 is counter-sloped. Accordingly, when the device of the reference is operated, the spring is loaded as the door is closed and continues to be loaded all the way through to the completely closed position.

The structure of the present invention mitigates the closing speed of the door to prevent mechanical impacts during closing, e.g., slamming of the horizontal door falling under the effects of gravity alone, and provides for stable opening and closing of the door, as described in detail at pages 12-14 of the application as originally filed.

As there is no teaching in the prior art for the counter sloping surfaces as defined in the claims of this application, it is believed that the claims as presented above distinguish over the Korean reference and are allowable.

All of the remaining claims depend from Claim 1 and are allowable therewith,

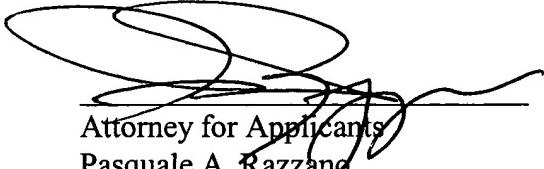
In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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